

peaks or to staying during the processing step, with a high level purity (see Tables 2 and 3).

In the process of the invention the surfactants used have to have a number molecular weight comprised between the range of 400-600 and a molecular weight distribution such that fractions having a number average molecular weight greater than 700 are not present or are present in amount of less 5% by weight, and the fractions between 600 and 700 are not greater than 60, preferably 20% by weight in the surfactant.

US 4,864,004 teaches the use of a microemulsion in a process for polymerizing or copolymerizing fluorinated monomers; at col 4, lines 12-22 it is stated that the preferred surfactants are those of the class of the perfluoropolyethers having one to two acid end groups, and nothing is taught about molecular weights of the surfactants and about its effect on the purity of polyvinylidenefluoride.

US patent 5,498,680 (which corresponds to EP 625 526) teaches the use of the microemulsion of fluoropolyoxyalkylenes having hydrogenated end groups and/or hydrogenated repetitive units; col 4, lines 24-34 recites:

"...the fluorinated surfactants can be either of the ionic or of the non ionic type, and can be selected from perfluorocarboxylic or perfluorosulfonic acids C_5-C_{11} and salts thereof; mono- or dicarboxylic acids derived from perfluoropolyalkylenes and salts

therof, nonionic surfactants formed by a perfluoropolyoxyalkylene chain etc."

Then, in col 5 lines 25-33 it is stated:

"...it is always possible to add other surfactants, which can be selected from that products having the formula:



where R_f is a (per)fluoroalkyl chain C^5-C^{16} or a (per)fluoropolyoxyalkylene chain".

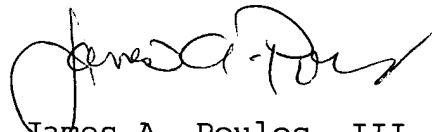
Fix 3
Thus, there is nothing in this patent teaching the skilled artisan about molecular wieghts of surfactants and about its effect on the purity of polyvinylidenfluoride.

From the data shown in Tables 2 and 3 applicants can ststae that technical problem identified above is solved just by using the surfactants described in the application and in not using surfactants of comparative example 2 and 3 (corresponding to the microemulsion of US 4,854,006)

In view of the foregoing applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is now in condition for a receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

In the event this paper is deemed not timely filed the applicant hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit Account No.14-1060 along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper; any overpayment should be credited to the account.

Respectfully submitted,
Nikaido, Marmelstein, Murray & Oram, LLP



James A. Poulos, III
Registration No. 31,714

Nikaido, Marmelstein, Murray & Oram, LLP
Metropolitan Square
655 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005-5701
(202) 638-5000

Attorney Docket No. 8910-8056

June 8, 1998